

In July of 2005, during floor debate over an amendment protecting the U.S. flag from desecration, Congressman Pence delivered the following remarks:

"Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending Mr. Cunningham and Chairman Sensenbrenner for their hard work on this important amendment.

"On February 23, 1945, after surviving the bloodiest battle since Gettysburg, a platoon of marines trudged up Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima with a simple task: to raise the American flag above the devastation below. When the flag was raised by Sergeant Mike Strank and his platoon, history records that a thunderous cheer arose from our troops on land and on sea, in foxholes and on stretchers.

"It is written, 'Without a vision, the people perish.' On that day, when the American flag began flapping in the wind high above Iwo Jima, the troops were provided with a vision that inspired and rallied them to victory in the Pacific. Mr. Speaker, the flag is still the vision for all Americans who cherish those who stood ready to make the necessary sacrifices for freedom.

"By adopting the Flag Protection Amendment, we will raise Old Glory yet again. We will raise her above the decisions of a judiciary that was wrong on our law, history and values. We will raise her above the cynicism of our times. We will say to my generation of Americans those unwelcome words, "There are limits." Out of respect for those who served beneath it and those who died within its sight, we must say that there are boundaries necessary to the survival of freedom and democracy.

"C.S. Lewis said 'We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.' Mr. Speaker, let us this day cease to laugh at honor. Let us elevate out of dishonor our unique national symbol to its rightful sacred place. Let us pass this amendment to restore to Old Glory the modest protections of the law she represents. For the sake of all who venerate her, it is time to raise the American flag to her old glory again."

